

Proclamation 4961 of September 8, 1982

Leif Erikson Day, 1982

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Leif Erikson was the son of Greenland's first colonizer, and he continued the tradition of the Nordic seafarers. Charged by King Olaf I to spread religion among the Greenland settlers, he helped expand mankind's knowledge of previously uncharted territory. In carrying European culture to the new world, he enhanced that culture when his adventures gave rise to the great medieval sagas, some of the finest literature of their period.

Americans will have the rare privilege of seeing the original saga manuscripts this year as part of an extraordinary program of Nordic culture. With the opening of *Scandinavia Today* on September 8, our country will pay special tribute to the people and accomplishments of the Nordic countries, and the legacy of Leif Erikson will be shared by our countrymen in exhibits and programs throughout the United States.

As a mark of respect to the courage of Leif Erikson and his Norse followers, the Congress of the United States, by joint resolution approved September 2, 1964 (78 Stat. 849, 36 U.S.C. 169c), authorized the President to proclaim October 9 in each year as Leif Erikson Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Saturday, October 9, 1982, as Leif Erikson Day and I direct the appropriate Government officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings that day.

I also invite the people of the United States to honor the memory of Leif Erikson on that day by holding appropriate exercises and ceremonies in suitable places throughout the land.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 8th. day of Sept. in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventh.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 4962 of September 8, 1982

Columbus Day, 1982

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Nearly five centuries ago, an Italian navigator in the service of Spain opened the way to the founding of these United States. In this historic feat, Christopher Columbus embodied for us the qualities which we Americans hold dear and which are representative of us as a people: daring, determination, vision, and the courage to pursue a dream.

Although Columbus undertook his epic voyage long ago, his adventurous spirit continues to inspire us. As we reflect on the elements which made this journey one of the finest moments in history, it is fitting that we rededicate ourselves to our search for new horizons, ever mindful of Christopher Columbus and those brave seafarers on the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria.

In tribute to the achievement of Columbus, the Congress of the United States, by joint resolution approved April 30, 1934 (48 Stat. 657), as modified by the Act of June 28, 1968 (82 Stat. 250), asked the President to proclaim the second Monday in October of each year as Columbus Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Monday, October 11, 1982, as Columbus Day; and I invite the people of this Nation to observe that day in schools, churches and other suitable places with appropriate ceremonies in honor of the great explorer.

I also direct that the flag of the United States be displayed on all public buildings on the appointed day in memory of Christopher Columbus.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 8th day of Sept. in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventh.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 4963 of September 8, 1982

White Cane Safety Day, 1982

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The white cane symbolizes safety and independence to many thousands of blind and other severely visually handicapped individuals.

It enables them to engage in normal activities of daily living as well as to manage businesses or perform tasks involved in employment with confidence and efficiency.

The white cane serves notice to the nation's drivers to be cautious and to the pedestrians to be courteous and considerate of the special needs of the severely visually handicapped. It may also in a special way be considered an extension of their bodily functions, providing courage, strength, confidence, hope and independence as well as mobility.

To make all Americans more fully aware of the special significance of the white cane and the need for extra care and courtesy when approaching its user, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved October 6, 1964, has authorized the President to proclaim October 15 each year as White Cane Safety Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 15, 1982, as White Cane Safety Day.

I ask all Americans to mark this day with concern and respect for the special needs of the severely visually handicapped and, especially, to note the white cane, in order that our busy streets will be safer for all.